of cooperative credit institutions These include:

> The Reserve Bank deregulation of the interest rate structure for lending and for raising deposits by cooperative institutions.
>
> The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Development Action Plan taking into account the performance and potential of these institutions to improve financial viability on a sustainable basis. The various strategies suggested in MOUs signed between the NABARD and the State Level Institutions include review of loan procedure, pre-sanction appraisal, recovery drive, etc.
>
> The State Governments constituting Standing Committees to decide on the strategy for ensuring adequate credit flow, monitoring and removal of bottlenecks.

Investment by MNCs for infrastructure facilities in the power sector

*189. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that multinational companies are prepared to invest for creating infrastructure facilities in the power sector both in the public and private sectors;

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government to tap such resources and install the latest technology in the power sector; and

(c) the details of offers received by Government in this regard after the liberalisation policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) As on date, as per inforamtion available. 56 proposals involving foreign investment from private promoters including multinational companies on the Memorandum of Understanding/Letter of Intent, etc. route costing more than Rs. 100 crores and on the competitive bidding route costing more than Rs. 1000 crores have been received for setting up power projects. The State-wise details of these projects indicating their capacity, provisional cost and name of the company are given in the Annexure. (*See Appendix 180, Anneuxre No.* 32]

Central Electricity Authority while examining proposals for setting up of power projects in the power sector for accord of techno-economic clearance as required in the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, taken into consideration the essentiality of the project, reasonableness of the tariff and the type of equipment proposed to be installed in the plant.

Salal Project

*190. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Salal Project in the Jammu region is facing a serious threat, due to problems of silting;

(b) whether this problem has been exacerbated by the closing of sluice gates provided in the original construction; and

(c) what measures are being taken to solve this problem, so that this crucial project can function with its full efficiency for a long time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Salal Hydroelectric Project of Natioanl Hydroelectric Power Corporation in Jammu & Kashmir experiences problems in operation in the monson months due to silt content in river Chenab which causes outages of generating units. To ensure operation of the project at full efficiency, several technical measures are being taken to improve the performance of the power stations and maximise generation. During 1996-97, generation from the Project (upto January, 1997) has been 2092 Million Units